

I'm appalled, but sadly not surprised, that a media corporation, Sinclair, is abusing the amazing deal the American public has given it by providing nearly free access to millions of households through the television airwaves, which are by law publically owned. By coming down heavily on the side of the incumbent, and forcing local stations to broadcast an hour long commercial against the challenger (a poorly researched, angry screed at that), Sinclair has made itself deserving of removal from the public airwaves.

I am amazed that the FCC has chosen to fine networks over such harmless tripe as the Super Bowl halftime show (not wholesome, but hardly earth-shaking in today's decadent culture), while allowing companies such as Sinclair to run roughshod over the political process.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.